

ESTIMATES—SERVICE OF THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

LETTER

OF

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL,

EXPLANATORY

Of estimates heretofore submitted for the service of the Post Office Department.

JUNE 22, 1860.—Referred to the Committee of Ways and Means, and ordered to be printed.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, *June 18, 1860.*

SIR: The estimates of this department for the fiscal year ending the 30th instant contained the following items for which appropriations "will be required out of the treasury of the United States:"

For transportation of the mail between New York and New Orleans, <i>via</i> Isthmus, to San Francisco, nine months, to June 30, 1860.....	\$187,500 00
For transportation of the mail over the Isthmus of Panama, nine months.....	75,000 00
For the transportation of the mail between San Francisco and Olympia.....	122,500 00
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	385,000 00
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Seeing no provision for these items in the appropriation bill now pending, I beg leave to call your attention to the subject.

The amount heretofore appropriated for deficiencies was.....	\$2,400,000 00
The further amount in the pending bill is.....	3,126,324 00
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In all.....	5,526,324 00
The amount of deficiencies estimated by the department was.....	4,816,092 71
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Difference.....	710,231 29
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It may have been supposed by your committee that the excess of appropriation for deficiencies will be available to pay for the above service, but I submit that only so much of it will be available as may be necessary to meet the expenses of the department provided for by law, and that therefore the pending bill should be amended, either by increasing the amount appropriated for inland mail service from \$7,394,010 to \$7,779,010, or by adding to the second section (providing for the deficiency) the words "including the cost of mail transportation between New York and New Orleans and San Francisco from the 1st October, 1859, to the 30th June, 1860."

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, &c.,

J. HOLT,
Postmaster General.

Hon. JOHN SHERMAN,
Chairman Committee of Ways and Means, House of Reps.